

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page two.)

hundreds of millions of dollars upon these waterways, yet the traffic on nearly all of them is steadily declining. This condition is the direct result of the absence of any comprehensive and far-reaching plan of waterway improvement. Obviously we cannot continue thus to expend the revenues of the government without return. It is poor business to spend money for inland navigation unless we get it.

Such shortsighted, vacillating and haphazard methods are accompanied by decreasing water borne commerce and increasing traffic congestion on land, by increasing floods and by the waste of public money. The remedy lies in abandoning the methods which have so signally failed and adopting new ones in keeping with the needs and demands of our people.

In a report on a measure introduced at the first session of the present congress the secretary of war said, "The chief defect in the methods hitherto pursued lies in the absence of executive authority for originating comprehensive plans covering the country or natural divisions thereof." In this opinion I heartily concur.

Until the work of river improvement is undertaken in a modern way it cannot have results that will meet the needs of this modern nation. These needs should be met without further delay or delay. The plan which promises the best and quickest results is that of a permanent commission authorized to co-ordinate the work of all the government departments relating to waterways and to frame and supervise the execution of a comprehensive plan. The time for playing with our waterways is past. The country demands results.

### National Parks.

I urge that all our national parks adjacent to national forests be placed completely under the control of the forest service of the agricultural department, instead of leaving them, as they are now, under the interior department and policed by the army.

### Pure Food.

The pure food legislation has already worked a benefit difficult to overestimate.

### Secret Service.

Last year an amendment was incorporated in the measure providing for the secret service which provided that there should be no detail from the secret service and no transfer therefrom. It is not too much to say that this amendment has been of benefit only, and could be of benefit only, to the criminal classes. The amendment in question was of benefit to no one excepting to criminals, and it seriously hampers the government in the detection of crime and the securing of justice. It prevents the promotion of employees in the secret service, and this further discourages good effort. In its present form the restriction operates only to the advantage of the criminal, and to the disadvantage of the law.

The chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressman did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men. Very little of such investigation has been done in the past, but it is true that the work of the secret service agents was partly responsible for the indictment and conviction of a senator and a congressman for land frauds in Oregon. I do not believe that it is in the public interest

to protect criminals in any branch of the public service, and exactly as we have again and again during the past seven years prosecuted and convicted such criminals who were in the executive branch of the government so in any branch we should be given ample means to prosecute them if found in the legislative branch. But if this is not considered desirable a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating members of the congress. It would be far better to do this than to do what actually was done and strive to prevent or at least to hamper effective action against criminals by the executive branch of the government.

### Postal Savings Banks.

I again renew my recommendation for postal savings banks, for depositing savings with the security of the government behind them. The object is to encourage thrift and economy in the wage earner and person of moderate means. It is believed that in the aggregate vast sums of money would be brought into circulation through the instrumentality of the postal savings banks. Postal savings banks are now in operation in practically all the great civilized countries with the exception of the United States.

### Parcel Post.

In my last annual message I recommended the postmaster general's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post on the rural routes. The establishment of a local parcel post on rural routes would be to the mutual benefit of the farmer and the country storekeeper, and it is desirable that this should be carried out. It is estimated that the parcel post service on the rural routes would be of great benefit to the farmer and the country storekeeper.

ment should take in the broad work of education has not received the attention and the care it rightly deserves. I earnestly recommend that this unfortunate state of affairs as regards the national educational office be remedied by adequate appropriations.

### Census.

I strongly urge that the request of the director of the census in connection with the decennial work so soon to be begun be complied with and that the appointments to the census force be placed under the civil service law, waiving the geographical requirements as requested by the director of the census. The supervisors and enumerators should not be appointed under the civil service law for the reasons given by the director.

### Public Health.

The dangers to public health from food adulteration and from many other sources, such as the menace to the physical, mental and moral development of children from child labor, should be met and overcome. This nation cannot afford to lag behind in the worldwide battle now being waged by all civilized people with the microscopic foes of mankind. The first legislative step to be taken is that for the concentration of the proper bureaus into one of the existing departments.

### Statehood.

I advocate the immediate admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states. This should be done at the present session of the congress. The people of the two territories have made it evident by their votes that they will not come in as one state. The only alternative is to admit them as two, and I trust that this will be done without delay.

### Foreign Affairs.

This nation's foreign policy is based on the theory that right must be done between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last ten years we have in this matter proved our faith by our deeds. We have behaved and are behaving toward other nations as in private life an honorable man would behave toward his fellows.

### Latin American Republics.

The commercial and material progress of the twenty Latin American republics is worthy of the careful attention of the congress. No other section of the world has shown a greater proportionate development of its foreign trade during the last ten years, and none other has more special claims on the interest of the United States.

### Panama Canal.

The work on the Panama canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty which make it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been undertaken by any nation, and no task of the kind has ever been better performed. The men on the isthmus, from Colonel Goethals and his fellow commissioners through the entire list of employees who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect and gratitude of the American people.

### Ocean Mail Lines.

I again recommend the extension of the ocean mail act of 1891 so that satisfactory American ocean mail lines to South America, Asia, the Philippines and Australasia may be established. The creation of such steamship lines should be the natural corollary of the voyage of the battle fleet. It should precede the opening of the Panama canal.

### The Philippines.

Real progress toward self government is being made in the Philippine Islands. The gathering of a Philippine legislative body and Philippine assembly marks a process absolutely new in Asia, not only as regards Asiatic colonies of European powers, but as regards Asiatic possessions of other Asiatic powers, and indeed, always excepting the striking and wonderful example afforded by the great empire of Japan. It opens an entirely new departure when compared with anything which has happened among Asiatic powers which are their own masters. We have given the Philippines constitutional government, a government based upon justice, and we have shown that we have governed them for their good and not for our aggrandizement.

At the present time, as during the past ten years, the inexorable logic of facts shows that this government must be supplied by us and not by them. We must be wise and generous. We must help the Philippines to master the difficult art of self control, which is simply another name for self government. But we cannot give them self government save in the sense of governing them so that gradually they may, if they are able, learn to govern themselves. No one can prophesy the exact date when it will be wise to consider independence as a fixed and definite policy.

### Porto Rico.

I again recommend that American citizenship be conferred upon the people of Porto Rico.

### Cuba.

In Cuba our occupation will expire in about two months' time. The Cubans have to orderly manner desired their own governmental authorities, and the

island will be turned over to them. Our occupation on this occasion has lasted a little over two years, and Cuba has thriven and prospered under it. Our earnest hope and one desire is that the people of the island shall now govern themselves with justice, so that peace and order may be secured.

### The Fleet's Reception.

I take this opportunity publicly to state my appreciation of the way in which in Japan, in Australia, in New Zealand and in all the states of South America the battle fleet has been received on its practice voyage around the world. The American government cannot too strongly express its appreciation of the abounding and generous hospitality shown our ships in every port they visited.

### The Army.

As regards the army, I call attention to the fact that, while our junior officers and enlisted men stand very high, the present system of promotion by seniority results in bringing into the higher grades many men of mediocre capacity who have but a short time to serve. No man should regard it as his vested right to rise to the highest rank in the army any more than in any other profession.

The scope of retiring boards should be extended so that they could consider general unfitness to command for any cause in order to secure a far more rigid enforcement than at present in the elimination of officers for mental, physical or temperamental disabilities. But this plan is recommended only if the congress does not see fit to provide what in my judgment is far better—that is, for selection in promotion and for elimination for age.

Now that the organized militia, the national guard, has been incorporated with the army as a part of the national forces it behooves the government to do every reasonable thing in its power to perfect its efficiency.

A bill is now pending before the congress creating a number of extra officers in the army, which, if passed, as it ought to be, will enable more officers to be trained as instructors of national guard and assigned to that duty.

There should be legislation to provide a complete plan for organizing the great body of volunteers behind the regular army and national guard when war has come. While teams representing the United States won the rifle and revolver championships of the world against all comers in England this year, it is unfortunately true that the great body of our citizens shoot less and less as time goes on.

To meet this we should encourage rifle practice among schoolboys and indeed among all classes, as well as in the military services, by every means in our power.

### The Navy.

I approve the recommendations of the general board for the increase of the navy, calling especial attention to the need of additional destroyers and colliers and, above all, of the four battleships. It is desirable to complete as soon as possible a squadron of eight battleships of the best existing type. The North Dakota, Delaware, Florida and Utah will form the first division of this squadron.

I most earnestly recommend that the general board be by law turned into a general staff. The navy is literally no excuse whatever for continuing the present bureau organization of the navy. The navy should be treated as a purely military organization, and everything should be subordinated to the one object of securing military efficiency. A system of promotion by merit, either by selection or by exclusion or by both processes, should be introduced.

Nothing better for the navy from every standpoint has ever occurred than the cruise of the battle fleet around the world. The improvement of the ships in every way has been extraordinary, and they have gained far more experience in battle tactics than they would have gained if they had stayed in the Atlantic waters. I do not believe that there is any other service in the world in which the average of character and efficiency in the enlisted men is as high as is now the case in our own. I believe that the same statement can be made as to our officers taken as a whole, but there must be a reservation made in regard to those in the highest ranks and in regard to those who have just entered the service, because we do not now get full benefit from our excellent naval school at Annapolis.

### How is your Digestion?

Mrs. Mary Dowling of No. 228 8th Ave., San Francisco, recommends a remedy for stomach trouble. She says: "Gratitude for the wonderful effect of Electric Bitters in a case of acute indigestion, prompts this testimonial. I am fully convinced that for stomach and liver troubles Electric Bitters is the best remedy on the market to-day." This great tonic and alterative medicine invigorates the system, purifies the blood and is especially helpful in all forms of female weakness. See at Ed Green's drug store.

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Ordinary pepsin "dyspepsia tablets," physics, etc., are not likely to be of much benefit to you, in digestive ailments. Pepsin is only

a partial digester—and physics are not digesters at all.

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HARRY CROSS, Arcadia